

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY

Poland

REPORT NO.

TOPIC 1. Polish Troops and Military Installations in Crossen and Penstadt

2. Former Ammunition Depot in Krannitz

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CON

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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Prior to January 1952, the offices of a Polish WOP (Border Guard) brigade were located in the former old Infantry Barracks in the town section north of the Oder River and the road fork between former Reichsstrasse No 97 to Schwiebus (O 53/W 33) and the road to Kaehnen (O 51/W 01). The brigade, which also furnished the guards for the border area at the junction of the Oder and Neisse Rivers, controlled a sector, which extended to the north as far as Kuestrin (O 53/V 66) and was adjoined in the south by the sector of the WOP brigade in Lauban (O 52/B 20). When the waterway office in Goerlitz (O 52/B 00) in October 1951 was taken over by the waterway office in Crossen, source had to contact the WOP brigade in Lauban since the brigade in Crossen did not control this area. Source mentioned that a WOP battalion was stationed at Guben (O 52/A 79), and knew from hearsay that other WOP brigades were stationed at Stettin (O 54/Q 55), Breslau (P 52/C 41) and Gleiwitz (Q 51/Y 37).¹

2. Source said that two other barracks installations, the western one of which was constructed prior to World War I and the eastern one prior to World War II, were on the northern perimeter of the town section north of the Oder River. In November 1951, the old barracks installation housed the municipal administration of Crossen and was partitioned from the other barracks buildings by a barbed-wire fence. The other buildings of the old barracks installation and the entire new barracks installation were occupied by Polish soldiers of undetermined branches of service. Source, who was not interested in military affairs, saw trucks and horses, but no tanks or armored vehicles prior to early 1952. He believed that the occupation of the billets frequently changed. He only seldom saw soldiers off duty in the town area of Crossen and also did not notice any connections between the troops and the population that result from a unit stationed at a post.²
3. Prior to 1950, a Polish colonel, whom source superficially knew and who, at that time, had been referred to as a division commander, had his apartment and his official seat on the north side of ul. Bolesl. Chrobrego, on the north bank of the Oder River. In 1950 and 1951, this Pole was replaced by a Soviet officer with whom source had no personal connections. The official seat

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of the so-called division commander still was at the same site prior to early 1952.²

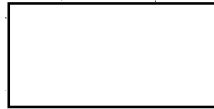
4. In January 1952, the office of the Polish security service for Kreis Crossen was in an area on Moniuszko Street, north of the Oder River, which was built up with four brick buildings and was enclosed by a wire fence.
5. The road bridge, which connected the two town sections north and south of the Oder River and had suffered no material war damages, was a steel suspension bridge, 120 meters long, which was supported by two brick piers, 60 meters apart. The main sector of the town, which was south of the Oder River, was badly destroyed.
6. In the summer of 1952, the only barracks installation in Neustadt/Upper Silesia (P 51/H 93), which was on the southwestern perimeter of the city and on the west side of the road to Linden (P 51/H 93) was occupied by Polish motorized troops, who wore khaki uniforms with red service color. The old, but fairly extensive installation which was bounded by ul. Dombrowskiego in the east and ul. Grundwaldzka in the west, had suffered no damages and included no new buildings. Source at the barracks installation observed numerous ZIS trucks which carried infantrymen. He estimated that the unit stationed at the installation was battalion size. Source, who believed that not all of the numerous barracks buildings were occupied by troops, saw no heavy weapons and armored vehicles in Neustadt/Upper Silesia. The troops used for training the post training ground north of the city between the roads to Zeiselwitz (P 51/H 94) and Zuelz (P 51/J 04).³
7. Prior to the summer of 1952, no Polish recruiting office was in Neustadt. Kreis Neustadt was under the jurisdiction of the Polish military district headquarters at Neisse (P 51/H 75).
8. Source knew no billets of Polish border guard troops in Neustadt, which still was outside the border area subject to special regulations, on the southern perimeter of the town.³ Source said that a WOP unit was in three or four former civilian houses in the town of Ziegenhals (P 51/H 83), where he had been working for a while as a mechanic. A minor WOP headquarters was also stationed in the vicinity of the billets.
9. After about the spring of 1952, source observed that the area of the former German ammunition depot at Krappitz (P 51/J 25) was reoccupied by Polish troops. The installation was off limits and was fenced in by the soldiers with barbed wire. Source last observed Polish soldiers in the installation in the summer of 1952. The former German ammunition depot was in the woods, about 3.5 km west of Krappitz, and extended to the south as far as the small village of Neubude (P 51/J 25).⁴

1. Comment. A WOP brigade stationed at Crossen is reported for the first time. The location of the WOP units on the border along the Oder and Neisse Rivers is still undetermined except for the brigades in Stettin and Lauban. In 1950, these two brigades enclosed the 10th Brig at Frankfurt/Oder, which later was not confirmed and may have been transferred to Crossen.
2. Comment. On the strength of old records, the 13th Inf Regt of the 5th Inf Div Meseritz, which may have been quartered in these barracks installations in early 1952, was carried in Crossen. It is fairly definitely believed that the colonel mentioned is the regimental commander, since no previous report mentioned a division headquarters in Crossen.

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3. ☐ Comment. Previous reports stated that the barracks installation quartered WCF. A motorized rifle battalion of the 10th Mecz Div at Oppeln is possibly stationed now at the installation.

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4. ☐ Comment. The installation is a former German Air Force ammunition depot.

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